

# memorandum

date November 10, 2010

to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

from Bruce Mackey, ESA Adolfson

subject Biennial Budget Request

As requested at the October 21 meeting, we have prepared a draft budget request (attached) to submit to Keith Phillips at the Governor's Executive Policy Office. We are recommending that the Flood Authority ask for the minimum amount required. Therefore, our draft request is limited to bridge funding for establishment of a flood district and an extension of time on the fish study. If the Flood Authority would like to make additional requests, those can be added. Due to the timing of the Governor's budget, a decision will need to be made on the budget request at the November 18 Flood Authority meeting.

## **FY 2011-2013 Budget Request: Interim Financing for Flood District Organization and Extension of Fish Study**

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority was reappropriated funds during the last legislative session to continue its operations and studies through June 30, 2010. (See attached: ESHB 2836, Sec. 1020. Catastrophic Flood Relief (20084850)).

To date the Flood Authority has undertaken several studies and met the requirements and deadlines required in Sections (3) and (4) of the legislation. Specifically the Flood Authority:

- Continued with the basin wide General Investigation study with the Army Corps of Engineers [Section 3 (a) (iv)].
- Completed an independent peer review of geotechnical and hydrological studies of two proposed water retention structures on the upper basins of the Chehalis River [Section 3 (a) v] in consultation with the Department of Ecology [Section 3 (c) (i)] and submitted it to the Office of Financial Management before funds were allotted for the fish study [Section 3 (c) (ii)].
- Contracted for a study of the effects on fish from possible water retention structures after the peer review did not find them infeasible [Section 3 (a) (iv)] and submitted the study proposal to the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the study would be eligible for federal work-in-kind [Section 3 (b)]
- Contracted for the design and implementation of a basin wide early flood warning system [Section 4].

Section (2) of the legislation states:

\$1,200,000 of the total reappropriation is provided solely for the Chehalis basin flood control authority to develop governance agreements for development, operation, and maintenance of flood hazard mitigation measures throughout the basin. The development of the governance agreements shall include preliminary estimates of local property tax options necessary to support the maintenance and operation of the twin city levy project and tax options necessary to support other possible flood control measures throughout the basin. The agreements must be executed by July 1, 2011.

To meet this legislative requirement the Flood Authority contracted with FCS Group to provide professional services to help the Flood Authority form a flood district by July 1, 2011. To date the Flood Authority is on schedule to have the agreements executed by the deadline. However, it will be approximately 10 months to a year after executing the agreements before a new district could receive funds. The new flood district will need interim financing to hire initial staff and continue with FCS Group to complete the steps needed to start collecting revenue.

Interim Financing would support Flood District staff working with FCS on the following tasks:

- Work with the Advisory Committee through its formative period and through development of a recommendation for the flood district's first budget and rate/tax.
- Adopt the basin-wide Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Adopt Flood Control Zone District rates and of tax levies.
- Develop tax rolls.
- Establish a fund administrator.
- Develop a budget.
- Negotiate interlocal agreements with other partners.
- Identify potential projects and coordinate with other organizations and/or agencies to analyze their flood risk reduction potential.
- Conduct public outreach and education.

#### Proposed Budget:

\$500,000

- One full time staff person with office space, computer, benefits, etc.
- Administrative support
- Operating budget

\$145,000

- FCS Group contract extension

**Budget Request: \$645,000**

#### **Request for Extension of the Fish Study and Data Collection**

The fish study is being undertaken to assess the effects on fish from two proposed flood storage facilities on the upper reaches of the Chehalis River. The study is required to be completed by June 2011 [Section 3 (a) (vi)]. The fish study was contracted in August, 2010 and work began shortly thereafter. The fish study includes several field visits to collect the data necessary to develop the models (Physical Habitat Simulation Model [PHABSIM] and SHIRAZ) used to predict the effects on fish.

The June 2011 deadline precludes the study from being able to have consistent water quality and habitat measurements during high, medium and low flows in one continuous water year (Sept. to Sept.)

**The Flood Authority requests that the deadline for completing the fish study be extended to January, 2012 to enable the collection of data over one continuous water year and the incorporation of that data into the fish models.**